

IN THE CLAIMS

The status of each claim is listed below.

Claims 1-27: Canceled.

28. (New) A fertilizer comprising an organic nitrogen-containing composition comprising fermentation mother liquor obtained by culturing the strain of *Enterobacter agglomerans* in a liquid medium the pH of which is adjusted to 5.0 or less, to allow L-glutamic acid to be produced and accumulated, which is accompanied by precipitation of L-glutamic acid, and then separating L-glutamic acid from the medium,

wherein the fertilizer comprises cells of a strain of *Enterobacter agglomerans* having L-glutamic acid-producing ability.

29. (New) The fertilizer according to Claim 28, wherein said strain can metabolize a carbon source in a liquid medium containing the carbon source and L-glutamic acid at a saturation concentration, and has an ability to accumulate L-glutamic acid at a saturation concentration, and has an ability to accumulate L-glutamic acid in an amount exceeding the saturation concentration.

30. (New) The fertilizer according to Claim 29, wherein a pH suitable for L-glutamic acid production by said strain is a pH at which L-glutamic acid precipitates in the medium, and L-glutamic acid is produced and accumulated, which is accompanied by precipitation of the L-glutamic acid, during the culture in the medium at the pH.

31. (New) The fertilizer according to Claim 28, wherein the percentage by mass of organic nitrogen with respect to the total solid matter is not less than 6% in said organic nitrogen-containing composition.

32. (New) The fertilizer according to Claim 28, wherein the percentage by mass of sulfate anion with respect to total nitrogen is 500% or less in said organic nitrogen-containing composition.

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Newly-added Claims 28-32 are supported by the specification at pages 4-56 and by original Claims 1-7. No new matter is believed to have been added to this application by the amendments submitted above.